

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, TECH, KS

SUBJECT: FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR KOREA

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR NUTTING CALLED DEPARTMENT (NOSENZO/PM) TO SAY THAT FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE (DE NAZELLE) HAD CONTACTED CANADIAN MISSION IN VIENNA IN MARGINS OF RECENT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING CONCERNING FUEL FABRICATION FOR SOUTH KOREA.

2. CANADIANS REPORTED THAT DE NAZELLE SAID MANY IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT WERE DISTURBED BY CANADIAN SALE OF REACTOR ON HEELS OF KOREAN DECISION TO CANCEL FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT. IN PARTICULAR, BURDEN OF INHIBITING PROLIFERATION SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF ONE COUNTRY'S SALES; OTHER PARTS OF CYCLE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT TO CONTROL

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PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CANDU CYCLE.

3. DE NAZELLE THEN WENT ON TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY TO KOREA. HE SAID FRENCH WERE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THIS MATTER. HE THEN PASSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO CANADIANS AND SAID THAT FRENCH POLICY ON THIS MATTER AND FRENCH DECISION TO PERMIT CERTAIN PROJECTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND KOREA TO PROCEED WOULD DEPEND ON CANADIAN ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

--IS CANADA READY TO LET SOUTH KOREA FABRICATE FUEL FOR CANDUS AND THE NRX (A RESEARCH REACTOR)?

--IS CANADA IN A POSITION WITHIN ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOUTH KOREA TO CONTROL WHAT FUEL IS USED IN ITS REACTORS?

--WOULD CANADA GIVE FRANCE ASSURANCES NOT TO SELL KOREA A FUEL FABRICATION PLANT FOR THESE REACTORS IF FRANCE AGREES NOT TO SELL?

4. NUTTING SAID THAT THE CANADIANS HAD RECENTLY RESPONDED TO FRENCH AS FOLLOWS:

--RE THE NRX, CANADA HAS NOT SUPPLIED AND HAS NO PLANS TO SUPPLY THIS TYPE REACTOR TO KOREA.

--FUEL FABRICATION IS NOT TOUCHED ON IN NUCLEAR GUARANTEES. IF KOREA SHOULD REQUEST CAPABILITY FOR CANDU FUEL FABRICATION, CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ASSUMES FRENCH WILL CONSULT WITH CANADA AS CANADA WOULD ALSO DO.

--LAST QUESTION IS HYPOTHETICAL AT THIS POINT BUT COULD OF COURSE BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY WHEN AND IF REQUEST FOR FUEL FABRICATION CAPABILITY IS MADE.

5. NUTTING ASKED IF FRANCE HAD CONTACTED US ON FUEL FABRICATION SUBJECT. NOSENZO SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY APPROACH. IN ANY CASE, SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED FRENCH AS WELL CONFIDENTIAL

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AS KOREANS THAT US HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH FRENCH TRANSFER TO KOREA OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LWR FUEL FABRICATION. ALSO WE HAVE TOLD FRENCH THAT IN CONNECTION WITH US DEMARCHE ON REPROCESSING, WE HAVE TOLD KOREANS THAT US IS PREPARED TO ASSIST KOREA IN NON-SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AREAS SUCH AS FUEL FABRICATION AS A SUPPLEMENT TO BUT NOT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR ONGOING ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS.

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